



# Newark Community Project for People With A.I.D.S.

*'Let us fight the virus, not each other.'*

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3 May, 1989

Gary R. Noble, M.D.  
Director, AIDS Prevention  
& Control  
U.S. Centers for Disease Control  
1600 Clifton Road, N.E.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30333

Dear Dr. Noble:

I was pleased to hear your testimony before the Congressional Subcommittee on Human Resources and Intergovernmental Relations convened by Representative John Conyers in Detroit last month and to meet with you briefly immediately following.

One of the things with which I was most impressed in your remarks was your statement that C.D.C. was attempting to assist states and local entities to develop planning processes and organizational infrastructures prepared to cope with the A.I.D.S. epidemic prior to its breakout in those areas not yet hardest hit, e.g., Midwestern Cities and States. I only wish that appropriate authorities in Newark and New Jersey had had the opportunity and the foresight to do likewise. [On that topic, please see enclosed copy of letter to the editor in The Star-Ledger of Newark printed last Saturday.]

I had accompanied Congressman Donald Payne to the Detroit hearings, not only due to Congressman Conyers' invitation, but also because I was anxious to learn all I could about how another City was preparing for the inevitable crisis. Some of the topics covered grew out of suggestions arising from the prior Newark hearings.

While at least five years late, we in Newark are currently attempting to establish a network of service providers which will enhance communication, cooperation, and coordination among all seriously concerned with the threat.

In conjunction with the office of the City Medical Director and various State agencies and local foundations, we are trying to bring together in a unified effort all who would foster the humane care and treatment of those afflicted and those affected by the disease and who would do all in their power to combat the spread of the HIV infection.

We believe C.D.C. and the State Health Department should be working to further this same objective in all areas affected.

Since we have available to us on a voluntary basis the expert services of one of New Jersey's leading demographic specialists (whose partner also serves as chief of demographic research for Equitable Life in New York), we are concerned about data, especially that which relates to our situation here in Newark. [This was a concern I expressed in my own testimony during the Congressional hearings in Newark March 27th.]

In this regard, we are unclear as to how inmates with A.I.D.S., the HIV infection, or who have died, who are incarcerated in federal, state, or local institutions are counted as to locality/county and state. Since we know a disproportionate share of such inmates come from Newark, we need to know more about how these statistics are treated in the reports.

One of the tasks we have set for ourselves in the coming year is to better identify the precise neighborhoods of the City (the Census Bureau counts 21) where people living with A.I.D.S. reside or formerly resided and where those who died with A.I.D.S. did reside. We would even like to attempt this mammoth task on a city block by block basis, if feasible.

The purpose of this project is clearcut. We want to assist all who would join in concentrated education/prevention efforts (especially among adolescents and young adults) to better target their efforts based on the most accurate, complete, and up-to-date data available.

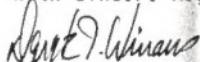
Any ideas or suggestions your office might have to proffer in this regard would be greatly appreciated.

In the meantime, I would like to issue you a standing invitation to come to Newark and meet with many of those

organizational leaders, appropriate medical authorities and public officials who are deeply involved in the struggle.

Again, I was glad to have the opportunity to hear your enlightening remarks and meet with you, if only briefly, afterwards.

With Sincere Regards,



Derek T. Winans  
Chairperson

Enclosures:

Letter to the Editor  
Mildred Crump article  
'Insight' Magazine excerpts